

Response dated April 7, 2005
Response to Office Action dated February 8, 2005

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receiving a request relating to at least one supplier of said supply chain, the request including a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one supplier; and

generating, for at least one selected hierarchical level, at least one performance indicator for said supply chain, said at least one performance indicator relating to the at least one supplier with respect to at least one other supplier.

94. (Original) The method as recited in claim 93, further comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

95. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, wherein said at least one performance indicator comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

96. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

97. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

98. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is based on preseason and in-season performance.

99. (Cancel)

100. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 97, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

101. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

102. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

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103. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

104. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

105. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said performance indicators are in tabular form.

106. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said performance indicators are in graphical form.

107. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

108. (Original) A method as recited in claim 107, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

109. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

110. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

111. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

112. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

113. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain performing steps comprising:

receiving data concerning at least one of a plurality of suppliers;

determining a supply chain;

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receiving a request relating to at least one supplier of said supply chain, the request including a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one supplier; and

generating, for at least one selected hierarchical level, at least one performance indicator for said supply chain, said at least one performance indicator relating to the at least one supplier with respect to at least one other supplier.

114. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, performing a further step comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

115. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, wherein said at least one performance indicator comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

116. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

117. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

118. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

119. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

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120. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 119, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

121. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

122. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

123. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

124. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

125. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said performance indicators are in tabular form.

126. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said performance indicators are in graphical form.

127. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

128. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 127, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

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129. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

130. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

131. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

132. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

133. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, comprising:

a module/component receiving data concerning at least one of a plurality of suppliers;

a module/component determining said supply chain;

a module/component receiving a request relating to at least one supplier of said supply chain, the request including a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one supplier; and

a module/component generating, for at least one selected hierarchical level, at least one performance indicator for said supply chain, said at least one performance indicator relating to the at least one supplier with respect to at least one other supplier.

134. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, as recited in claim 133,

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further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

135. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, wherein said at least one performance indicator comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

136. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

137. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

138. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

139. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

140. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 139, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

141. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, further comprising a module/component comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

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142. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

143. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

144. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

145. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said performance indicators are in tabular form.

146. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said performance indicators are in graphical form.

147. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

148. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 147, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

149. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

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150. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component providing for input of anecdotal information.

151. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component linking said evaluation score to a product type.

152. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

153. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

logging into a system that contains data concerning suppliers of a supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of the suppliers;

sending a request for performance information concerning the suppliers;

determining said supply chain;

receiving the performance information; and

evaluating, for at least one selected hierarchical level, the suppliers for said supply chain based on the performance information.

154. (Original) A method of claim 153, wherein the performance information includes at least one of actuals evaluations, supplier information, teams view evaluations and bulletin board data.

155. (Original) A method as recited in claim 153, further comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

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156. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, wherein said performance information comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

157. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

158. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

159. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

160. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

161. (Original) A method as recited in claim 160, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

162. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

163. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

164. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

165. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of comparing said performance information for multiple suppliers.

166. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said performance information is in tabular form.

167. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said performance information is in graphical form.

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168. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

169. (Original) A method as recited in claim 168, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

170. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

171. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

172. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

173. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

174. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain performing steps comprising:

logging into a system that contains data concerning suppliers of a supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of the suppliers;

sending a request for performance information concerning the suppliers;

determining said supply chain;

receiving the performance information; and

evaluating, for at least one selected hierarchical level, the suppliers for said supply chain based on the performance information.

175. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, performing a further step comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

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176. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, wherein said performance information comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

177. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

178. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

179. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

180. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

181. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 180, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

182. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

183. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

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184. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

185. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of comparing said performance information for multiple suppliers.

186. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said performance information is in tabular form.

187. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said performance information is in graphical form.

188. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

189. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 188, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

190. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

191. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

192. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

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193. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

194. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, comprising:

- a module/component logging into a system that contains data concerning suppliers of said supply chain;

- a module/component inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of the suppliers;

- a module/component sending a request for performance information concerning the suppliers;

- a module/component determining said supply chain;

- a module/component receiving the performance information; and

- a module/component evaluating, for at least one selected hierarchical level, the suppliers for supply chain based on the performance information.

195. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

196. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 195, wherein said performance information comprises at least one of:

- returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

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197. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 196, further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

198. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

199. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

200. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

201. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 200, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

202. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, further comprising a module/component comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

203. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

204. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

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205. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component comparing said performance information for multiple suppliers.

206. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said performance information is in tabular form.

207. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said performance information is in graphical form.

208. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

209. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 208, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

210. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

211. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component providing for input of anecdotal information.

212. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component linking said evaluation score to a product type.

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213. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

214. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
determining a criterion to gauge said performance indicators.

215. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining said supply chain comprises:

selecting said supply chain from a plurality of supply chains.

216. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said performance indicators are presented by a level.

217. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected hierarchical level is selected from the group consisting of a department level, a division level, and a company level.

218. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hierarchical identification comprises the first hierarchical level and the second hierarchical level, further comprising:

comparing the performance of said at least one supplier at a first hierarchical level with another supplier at a second hierarchical level.

219. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
inputting a performance identification of a performance indicator; and
trending the performance indicator over a period of time for said at least one of multiple suppliers.

220. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said selected hierarchical level is selected from the group consisting of a departmental level and a divisional level.